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# Assessing and communicating the biosecurity risk posed by small-scale pig production in Eastern Australia



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# Background

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Practices of small-scale pig producers are considered to pose risks to animal biosecurity in Australia.

However a scientific evaluation of the biosecurity risk posed by this sector to the commercial pig industry and other livestock industries has not yet been conducted.



# Aim

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## Research by USyd Team:

To **define the biosecurity risk** related to practices of small-scale pig producers

To **communicate** this to government and industry stakeholders

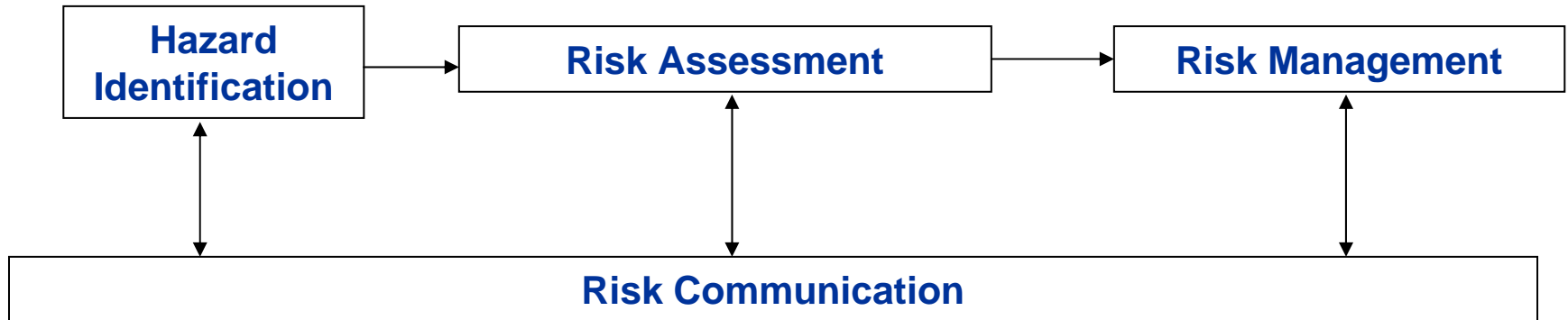
In order to **promote disease surveillance and extension activities** to this sector that will **reduce the biosecurity risk** associated with it.



# Approach



**Transboundary Animal Disease**  
**-Foot-and-mouth disease**  
**-Classical swine fever**

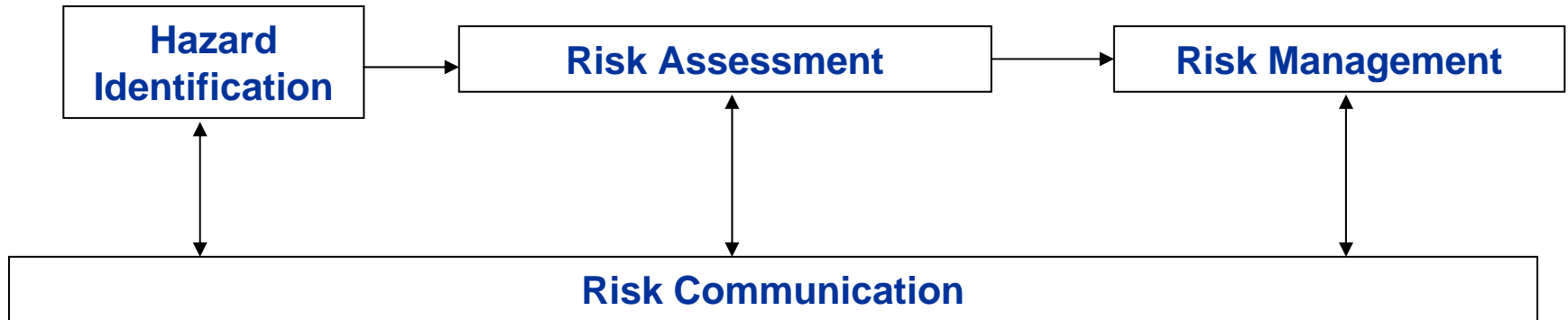


# Approach

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**Research small-scale producer practices**  
**Qualitative and Quantitative RA**

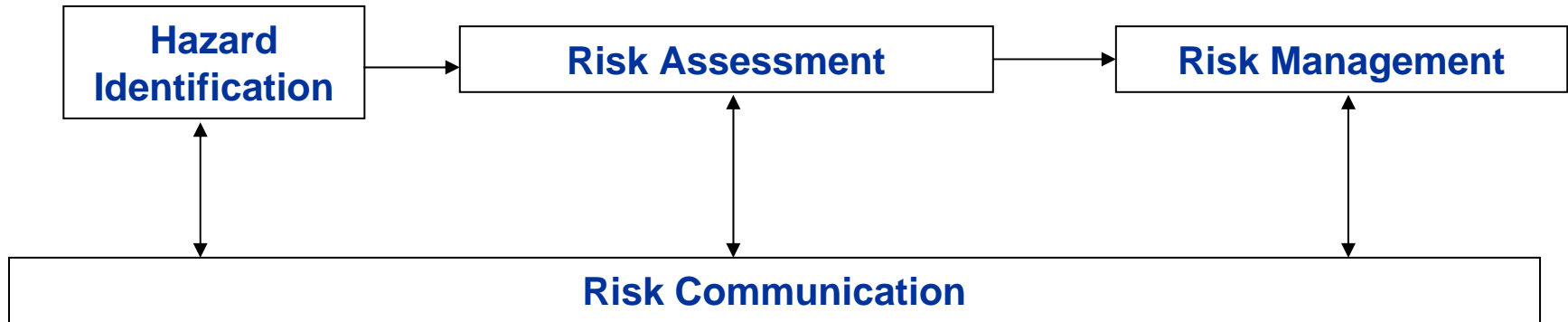


# Approach

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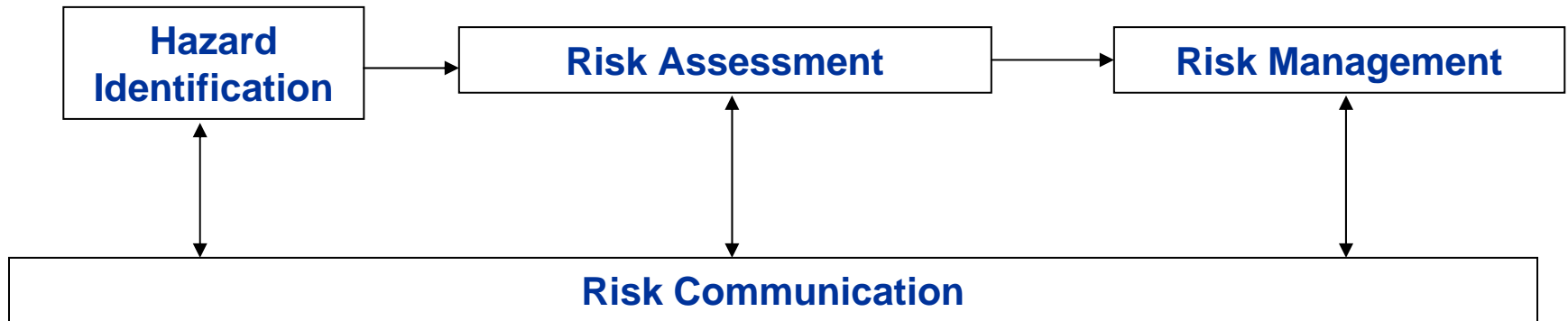


**Identify options to reduce risk**  
**Evaluate impact**



# Approach

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**Steering Committee – Industry and Government**  
**National Forum**



# PHASE 1

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## Research

Small-scale pig sector that trade through  
saleyards in Eastern Australia

Biosecurity practices on-farm and post-farm gate



# Risky practices

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## USyd research of small-scale pig producers found:

- Most keep ruminants &/or poultry
- 40% do not quarantine new pigs
- 5% feed waste products to pigs
- 5% do not know that meat is swill
- Few have regular contact with a veterinarian



# Adoption Forum

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**Safeguarding Australia's Livestock Industries:  
*Improving biosecurity in pig production systems***

**21-22 August 2008**

**University of Sydney**



# Forum Objectives

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- **To inform stakeholders of key research findings**
- **To facilitate stakeholder identification of ways to overcome identified gaps and deficiencies**

## **Leading to:**

- **Minimum on-farm biosecurity standards for pig producers**
- **National approach to**
  - **Swill feeding audits**
  - **Pig traceability**
  - **Disease surveillance at saleyards and abattoirs.**
- **Commitment to extension and communication on biosecurity to all sectors of the pig industry**

# Forum Process

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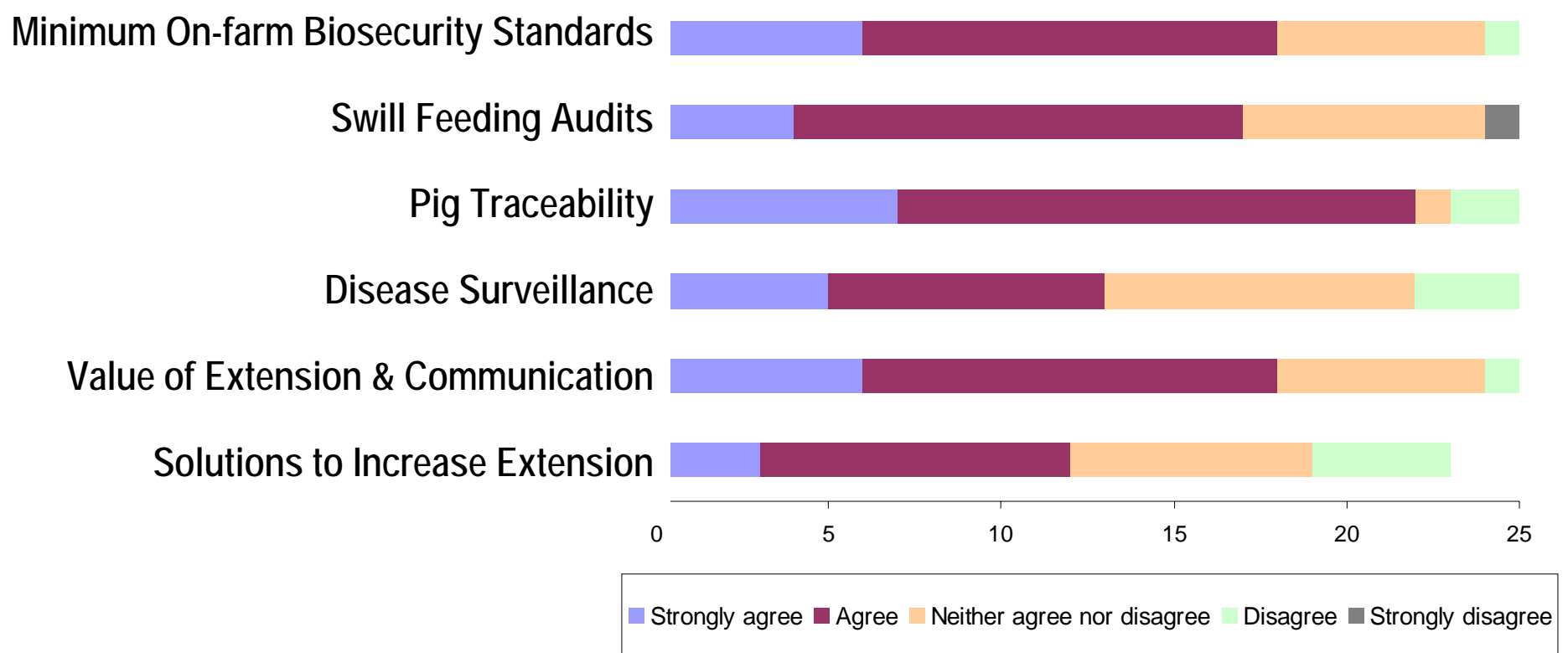
## 35 Delegates representing

- Pig industry and Pig producers
  - Other livestock industries
  - State governments
  - Federal government
  - Universities
  - Australian Biosecurity CRC
- **Presentation and general discussion of key research findings**
- **Group activities to address focus questions**

# Forum Evaluation



■ **78% of delegates – all groups represented**



# Forum Recommendations



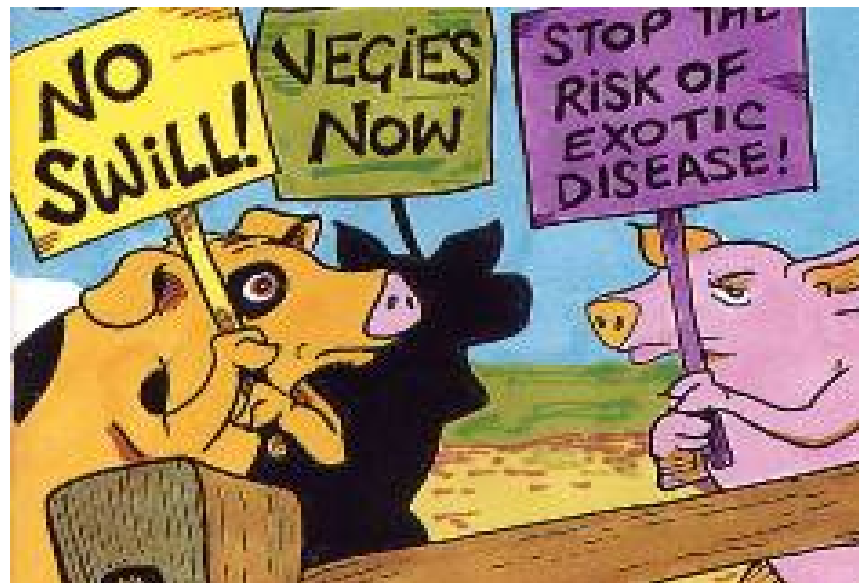
## Actions

- 1. Minimum on-farm biosecurity standards to Standards Review Committee.**
- 2. National plan for swill feeding audits - Animal Health Australia to submit to Animal Health Committee.**
- 3. National approach to pig traceability - National Pig NLIS Committee to develop and to lobby state governments to comply.**
- 4. Incorporate biosecurity and disease detection into training programs – Animal Health Australia.**
- 5. E-Surveillance to capture data on suspect pigs at abattoirs – Australian Pork Limited and Animal Health Australia to scope.**
- 6. Extension strategy on biosecurity compliance - Australian Pork Limited / Animal Health Australia / State governments to develop.**

# Progression toward collaboration

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- Ground swell of concern about gaps
- Stated commitments to act
- Agreement by industry and government agencies to act together



# Effective communication

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## *Our learning*

- Sound research to obtain the evidence
- Know role and responsibilities of stakeholders
- Tailor your case to each stakeholder – so it is relevant to their needs and presents options for action they could take
- Directly and via influential stakeholders reinforce the message to decision makers

**YES**  
**We know this is not NEW!**



# Sales pitch

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## ***Invest in Extension***

- **To Commercial Pig Industry** - Improve compliance and Safeguard whole industry

## ***Improve Biosecurity***

- **To Lifestylers** – Improve health and welfare of your animals
- **To Traditional raisers** – Improve production and ensure safety of meat product



# PHASE 2

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## Research

Small-scale pig sector that **do not** trade through saleyards in Eastern Australia

## Risk Assessment

Quantitative RA

Qualitative RA



Australian Government

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Australian Centre for  
International Agricultural Research

# PHASE 2

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## **Risk Management**

No small-scale pig sector?

Improve biosecurity practice of small-scale pig sector?

## **Risk Communication**

Strategic with Key Stakeholders

Partner with National Smallholder Extension Network



Australian Government

Australian Centre for  
International Agricultural Research

***QUESTIONS?***

